

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial

Project Q&A: Museum of Westward Expansion Closure and the Old Courthouse as the Gateway Arch Ticketing and Visitor Center During Construction

January 30, 2015

Primary Message

The Gateway Arch is open during construction of the new museum exhibits and Visitor Center for tram rides to the top and for showings of the documentary *Monument to the Dream*. Tickets must be purchased in advance for any entry to the Arch. Visitors may no longer enter the Arch lobby without a ticket due to space limitations during this time.

Q: Why is the Museum of Westward Expansion closing?

A: Opened to the public in 1976, the Museum of Westward Expansion has undergone very few changes since its grand opening. As part of the CityArchRiver 2015 project that is revitalizing the Gateway Arch, its park grounds and surrounding areas, the Museum of Westward Expansion will close to make way for entirely new museum exhibits and Visitor Center.

Q: When will the museum close?

A: The last chance to view the museum's current exhibits is President's Day weekend, Feb. 14-16. (This is also a fee-free weekend in which visitors can enjoy \$3 off their adult tram or movie ticket.) The final day of operations for the museum is Monday, Feb. 16. The museum will be closed beginning Tuesday, Feb. 17.

Q: What changes can I expect when I visit the Gateway Arch during this time?

A: Due to construction, the capacity of the entire Gateway Arch facility will be limited. Beginning Monday, March 2, each guest planning to enter the Gateway Arch is required to have either a Journey to the Top ticket or an Arch Entry-Only ticket to be allowed access to the facility. Tickets must be purchased in advance at <http://ticketsforthearch.com>, in person at the Old Courthouse, or by calling 877-982-1410.

- A Journey to the Top ticket includes the tram ride to the top as well as a showing of the documentary film *Monument to the Dream* (based on availability).
- An Arch Entry-Only ticket will allow access into the Gateway Arch facility and includes admission to *Monument to the Dream* (based on availability).

Monument to the Dream will be shown continuously throughout the day. Beginning March 2, no reservations will be accepted to view the film.

The Arch Museum Store and Levee Mercantile, located in the Gateway Arch lobby, will remain open.

Q: How can I purchase tickets to visit the Arch?

A: The Old Courthouse will serve as the Ticketing and Visitor Center for the Gateway Arch during construction. Guests interested in purchasing tickets can do so in person at the Old Courthouse, online at <http://ticketsforthearch.com> or by calling 877-982-1410.

Q: When will the Gateway Arch Visitor Center and new museum exhibits be completed?

A: Construction is projected to be completed in the spring of 2017. However, this can change as the construction calendar unfolds.

Q: What will happen to the museum's current exhibits and artifacts?

A: While the National Park Service will move most artifacts into storage, temporary exhibit galleries in the Old Courthouse (11 North Fourth Street, St. Louis), opening in late spring 2015 and developed from those in the Museum of Westward Expansion, will feature some of the museum's artifacts. Some artifacts will also return with the opening of the new museum exhibits.

Q: What can I expect with the new museum exhibits?

A: The new interactive museum exhibits, designed by Haley Sharpe Design, will focus on six thematic areas, including colonial St. Louis, Jefferson's vision, the St. Louis Riverfront, Manifest Destiny, new frontiers, and the design and construction of the Gateway Arch. The Arch and museum will also receive a new westward-facing entrance.

During construction, the Old Courthouse will host new temporary exhibit galleries developed from those in the Museum of Westward Expansion. The first of these galleries will open in late spring 2015.

Q: Will the Arch remain open during construction?

A: Yes, the Arch is expected to remain open during construction. However, certain aspects may be unavailable for short durations as the construction calendar unfolds. All guests are encouraged to visit www.gatewayarch.com or call 877-982-1410 for operational updates before their visit.

Q: What are the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse's hours of operation?

A: During the winter, Old Courthouse will operate from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; the Gateway Arch will operate from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. During the summer (Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day), the Old Courthouse will operate from 7:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.; the Gateway Arch will operate from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.